

REMARKS

Claims 1-87 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 12, 14, 18, 19, 21, 23, 26, 27, 30, 32-34, 37, 38, 41, 44, 46, 47, 50, 51 and 55-57 have been amended in this response. The applicants' attorney notes that claims 16, 17, 31, 42, 54, 60 and 62-87 were withdrawn and not cancelled in the Response to Restriction Requirement filed January 10, 2003.

In the Office Action mailed March 20, 2003, claims 1-15, 18-30, 32-41, 43-53, 55-59 and 61 were rejected. More specifically, the status of the application in light of this Office Action is as follows:

(A) The title of the invention was objected to for failing to be directed to the elected invention; and

(B) Claims 1-15, 18-30, 32-41, 43-53, 55-59 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,228,548 to King et al. ("King").

Applicants' attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone conference on June 17, 2003. During that telephone conference, the present Office Action, proposed amendments to claims 1 and 3, and the King reference were discussed. The Examiner tentatively agreed that claim 1 as amended in this response is patentable over the applied reference pending a further review of the reference.

A. Response to the Title Objection

The title of the application has been amended to clarify the invention to which the claims are directed.

B. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-15, 18-30, 32-41, 43-53, 55-59 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over King. Claim 1 has been amended in accordance

with the tentative agreement reached during the June 17 telephone conference. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-15 and 18-20 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1 and for the additional features of these claims.

Independent claim 21 has, *inter alia*, features generally similar to those included in claim 1. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 21 should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1 and for the additional features of claim 21.

Claims 22-30 depend from claim 21. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 21 and for the additional features of these claims.

Independent claim 32 has, *inter alia*, features generally similar to those included in claim 1. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 32 should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1 and for the additional features of claim 32.

Claims 33-41 and 43 depend from claim 32. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 32 and for the additional features of these claims.

Independent claim 44 has, *inter alia*, features generally similar to those included in claim 1. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 44 should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1 and for the additional features of claim 44.

Claims 45-53, 55 and 56 depend from claim 44. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 44 and for the additional features of these claims.

Independent claim 57 has, *inter alia*, features generally similar to those included in claim 1. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 57 should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1 and for the additional features of claim 57.

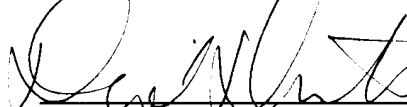
Claims 58, 59 and 61 depend from claim 57. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 57 and for the additional features of these claims.

C. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore request reconsideration of the application and an allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the distinctions between the claims and the cited reference, or any other distinctions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact David Dutcher by telephone. Additionally, if the Examiner notices any informalities in the claims, he is also encouraged to contact David Dutcher to expediently correct any such informalities.

Respectfully submitted,

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